

I weep for the children of Kisumu.

“Daughters of Jerusalem do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For a time will come when you will say, blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!”

It all starts with the lightness of a light wind that raises a trace of dust. Or something akin to clouds gathering high up in the sky before a storm. You look at it as it unfolds before your eyes in a slow motion and by the time it is over you relieve the memory a hundred times without answers of what could have gone wrong. And this could happen to anyone. The violence we see in Kisumu is an inflammable mammoth of underlying terror playing itself out in broad day light like in a movie scene. A Kenyan politician and business man driving himself and his wife in a free country, probably talking about prospects of the future, is suddenly blocked by unknown people. It all looks a normal incident. “Why is someone blocking my way? I mean some people are senseless. Get out of my way!” But this is not a mistake. Its an orchestrated encounter that in a matter of minutes will play out real life tragedy, daring in its calculation, deadly and in its tracks a trail of destruction.

We have all heard and seen what has happened in Kisumu, just as it unfolded presently and in similar fashion as in history. A familiar scent of violence that in its wake claims innocent lives and results in millions of investments going up in flames. As the volatile events are overflowing in the beautiful lake city we cannot pretend not to see. The insecurity situation that has resulted in this upheaval must be addressed in the most amicable manner. This is not the time to go up in arms, demonstrating without purpose and coursing more damage to an already sorry state. I know, because I have grown up in Kisumu that rioting has never solved anything. Its a means of venting disappointments negatively and taking advantage of the situation to loot property. In the ensuing chaos the security system is compelled to use excess force. Anarchy finds this a fertile ground to breed which has proven again and again that Kenya must find mature solutions to its problems rather than fuel them.

Better strategies must be employed if we want a peaceful Kenya especially on the eve of an election year. I can say that as things stand many people are scared of what the future holds for them. The little hope they had left has been shuttered. To salvage this situation leadership must arise. This is a ripe moment to gather the masses together through proper mediation of the root of the societal problems and the route to a peaceful coexistence. The people of Kisumu seem a sheep without a shepherd, and the enemy is on the brawl. If a people can riot, go to sleep and resume in the same havoc upon their wake then its bare truth a solution is yet to be reached and no one is in control. Let the leaders rush to the scene, take the matters in question into their responsibility and let reason reign in the minds of the citizens. Nothing will come to good if leaders sit back and watch the spectacle spiral out of control and hope calm finds its way back. This drama does not chose who suffers. It can pick on anyone at any time. Let this sink deep into our souls as we consider peace for our nation.

If we do not find a way out of the mess we are already in, we will have to pay a heavier price for doing what we can do today tomorrow. Waiting until it's too late is unwise. Rioting is primitive in all its shapes and manner. It is senseless to think that by storming a police post you will uproot evil. Breaking into another persons' shop to steal in the name of demonstrating is a naked display of poverty of thought and decay of morals. As a Kenyan you need to reexamine what you are doing and if it will add value to the country. Peace in this nation always begins with you. Do not wait for anyone to come and inform you about how to live in peace. In all manner of disappointments everyone needs to act with a lot of restrain and wisdom. Meanwhile our leaders should always come out and set an example that all

can follow. Where leadership failed in Kisumu, the country has been left weeping for its fallen children. May all those who lost their loved ones find peace in this time of trial.

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